

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136(a) and 1.17(a), a three-month extension of the term for reply, i.e., to up to and including January 20, 2002 is requested. As this date falls on a Sunday, and the following Monday is a Federal Holiday, and this response is being submitted on the next business day (i.e. January 22, 2002), it is believed that no further extensions of time are necessary. Submitted herewith is a check for \$525.00, partially in payment of the fee required therefor (\$460.00). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additionally required fee, or credit any overpayment in fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

AMENDMENT

It is respectfully requested that the application be amended, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 69, line 5, please rewrite the paragraph thereat as follows:

The following primers were used for exogenic OCP detection:

Forward: 5' GCACTGAAGTGCTCTGTGGAT 3' (SEQ ID NO: 23); and

Reverse: 5' CCACAGAAGTAAGGTTCCCTCAC 3' (SEQ ID NO: 24).

Page 74, line 9, please rewrite the paragraph thereat as follows:

At the boundary of this conserved region there is a completely conserved stretch of basic amino acids: KCKKDR (SEQ ID NO: 25) (aa 242-247 and 240-245, in rat and human proteins, respectively). Stretches of basic amino acids frequently serve as protease cleavage sites. The fact that such a stretch is found on the boundary of more or less conserved sequences and the fact that it occurs within the C-terminal LRR, a generally conserved domain, suggests an underlying biological significance.

Immediately after page 78 and before the first page of claims (page 79), please insert the enclosed pages identified as --Sequence Listing--.